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24 February 1955

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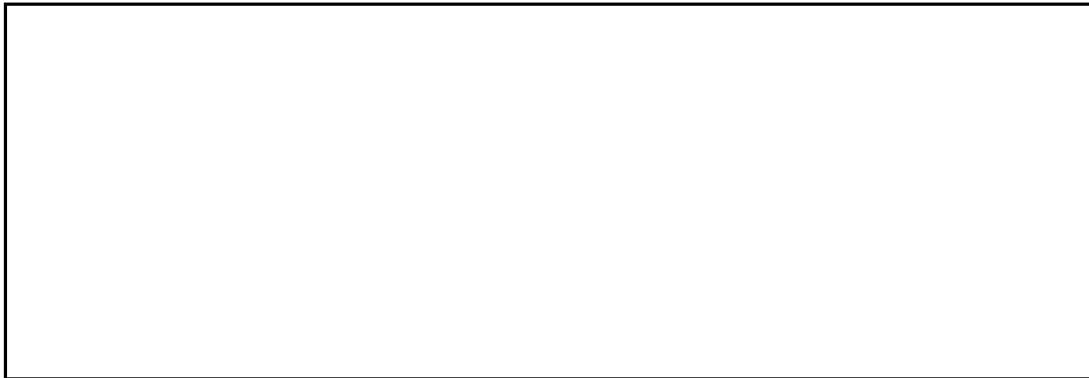
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GENERAL

1. Plans for Soviet industrial fair in Buenos Aires reported:

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Sources close to the Soviet embassy in Buenos Aires report that plans are under way for a large Soviet industrial exposition in Buenos Aires in April, according to an Argentine broadcast. The USSR expects to display a wide variety of industrial products. Several shipments of machinery have already arrived.

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Comment:

the Soviet pavilion from the 1954 Izmir International Trade Fair had been crated for shipment to Buenos Aires.

If this exposition takes place it will be the first Soviet fair in the western hemisphere since World War II, and may presage an intensification of Soviet trade activities in Latin America.

The fair would be a follow-up of the USSR's offers, made at the UN last April and repeated later, to sell essential imports to dollar-short Latin American countries on credit terms, with payment in local currencies.

The USSR resumed commercial relations with Latin America in August 1953. By June 1954 total trade with Argentina had reached \$78,568,000, and with Uruguay, \$16,020,000. Only \$7,980,000 of this represented Soviet exports, all of which were to Argentina.

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SOVIET UNION

2. Saburov fails to appear with other party presidium members:

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The chairman of the Soviet State Planning Committee, M. Z. Saburov, was the only member of the party presidium who failed

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to attend a 21 February concert given by Belorussian artists. The "sudden" invitation to Western ambassadors to attend suggested to one diplomat that they had been invited in order to see who was present. Saburov last appeared with the other presidium members at a similar Belorussian festival on 11 February. He was absent from a 14 February reception at the Chinese embassy, as were Voroshilov and Khrushchev, who was in the Ukraine.

Saburov's absence on such occasions is not unprecedented and could be due to illness or absence from Moscow. However, similar absences were the first sign of Beria's and Bagirov's removal from the presidium in June 1953.

Saburov has long been associated with the economic planning apparatus, which has come under severe criticism from Khrushchev and other Soviet figures in the past year, and his career suggests that he owed much of his success to Malenkov's patronage. Should Saburov be removed from the presidium, it would be striking evidence of the seriousness of the personal and policy differences within that body.

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LATE ITEM

25X1A. Chinese Nationalist infantry regiment withdrawing from Nanchishan:

MAAG officials in Formosa report that the 2,800 Chinese Nationalist regular troops on Nanchishan were to begin withdrawing to Formosa on the afternoon of

24 February (0400, 24 February, Washington time). Two LST's and an LSM were to be used to transport the troops. They were to be escorted by a destroyer, four destroyer-escorts, and six other vessels. The Nationalist air force was to provide air cover for the operation, which is expected to be completed in 13 hours.

Comment: With Nationalist air and naval forces engaging in operations close to the China mainland, it is possible that the Communists will attempt to interfere during the withdrawal.

Following the evacuation of the Tachens, the Nationalists were rumored planning to withdraw all regulars from Nanchishan, and to increase the guerrilla garrison from about 700 to 5,000 or 6,000, using guerrilla troops evacuated from the Tachens.

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